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Message Text

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20
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 DRC-01

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R 091726Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7655
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS(PINT, TO
SUBJ: EYADEMA DISSOLVES ALL SPORTS CLUBS IN TOGO

REF: LOME 978

1. SUMMARY. TOGO'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, UNDER EYADEMA'S CHAIRMANSHIP, MET MAY 7 TO CONSIDER "MAILAISE" AFFECTING TOGOLESE SOCCER FOOTBALL AND DECIDED TO DISSOLVE ALL SPORTS CLUBS IN COUNTRY. MIN YOUTH AND SPORTS CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP REFORM PROGRAM. EYADEMA MET MORNING OF MAY 8 WITH PLAYERS, MANAGERS AND TEAM SUPPORTERS TO "EXCHANGE POINTS OF VIEW," AS MAY 9 "TOGO-PRESSE" PUTS IT, AND TO TELL THEM WHY CLUBS HAD BEEN DISSOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. BUILDUP TO DISSOLUTION OF ALL SPORTS CLUBS IN TOGO FIRST SURFACED IN MAY 7 "TOGO-PRESSE" ACCOUNT OF SPEECH EYADEMA GAVE
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TO LARGE GROUP OF ANIMATORS ASSEMBLED AT CAMP LANDJA, LAMA-KARAP

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SUNDAY, MAY 5. (FOLLOWING CEREMONY DESCRIBED PARA 6 REFTEL) ELABORATING ON IDEA THAT "NATIONAL CONSCIENCE" MUST TOUCH ALL DOMAINS OF NATIONAL LIFE, EYADEMA INVITED ALL RPT MILITANTS TO WORK FOR NATIONAL SPORTING SPIRIT, AND DEPLORED HATREDS EXISTING AMONG FOOTBALL CLUBS, WHO DO NOT EVEN DEFEND NATIONAL COLORS COLLECTIVELY. CONDUCT IN THIS AREA MUST CHANGE OR TOGO COULD NEVER HAVE NATIONAL TEAM WORTHY OF NAME. SPIRIT OF DIVSION AND HATE AMONG CLUBS WAS LIKENED TO THAT OF FORMER POLITICAL PARTIES. WE DO NOT HAVE RIGHT TO ASK OURSELVES IF WE BELONG TO SHOOTING STAR OR MODEL OR DYTO (THREE WELL-KNOWN LOME CLUBS) BEFORE DECIDING IF WE MUST SUPPORT SPORT TEAM REPRESENTING US ABROAD." NATIONAL LOGIC REQUIRES US TO SUPPORT ANY TEAM DEFENDING TOGOLESE COLORS.

3. ERRING FOOTBALLERS AND FANS WERE NOT RPT NOT GIVEN MUCH CHANCE TO TURN OVER NEW LEAF. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MET ON MORNING OF MAY 7 AND, AFTER "PROFOUND ANALYSIS" OF "MAILAISE" -- A "FANATICISM" WHICH IS ALLEGEDLY DESTROYING SPIRIT OF UNION AND RECONCILIATION IMPLANTED BY ARMY AND RPT, DISSOLVED ALL SPORTS CLUBS IN COUNTRY, AGAIN COUNCIL, ACCORDING TO T-P REPORT, CHARGED SUPPORTERS OF (UNAMED) FOOTBALL CLUB WITH SUPPORTING A FOREIGN TEAM AGAINST ANOTHER TOGOLESE TEAM WHICH WAS WEARING THE NATIONAL COLORS. (SOME TOGOLESE THINK THIS REFERS TO A GAME PLAYED IN ABIDJAN WHERE TOGO WAS REPRESENTED BY LOME CLUB, AND SOME TOGOLESE CHEERED IVORY COAST SIDE; OTHERS THINK IT REFERS TO A GAME PLAYED HERE AGAINST A GHANA TEAM. NOBODY REALLY KNOWS.) COUNCIL GAVE MIN YOUTH AND SPORTS UNENVIABLE CHORE OF PUTTING FOOTBALL TOGETHER AGAIN.

4. WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 8, EYADEMA CONVOKED FOOTBALL PLAYERS, MANAGERS AND SUPPORTERS TO MEETING IN RPT BUILDING (SAME ONE WHERE HE ANNOUNCED HE HAD DISCONTINUED USE OF CHRISTIAN NAME) TO EXPLAIN DECISION. REHASHING HOW ARMY HAD SAVED COUNTRY FROM ANARCHY, HOW ALL DIFFERENT ASSOCIATIONS OF WOMEN, YOUTH, CHIEFS AND LABOR HAD BEEN REGROUPED IN RPT FOR NATIONAL UNITY, HE AGAIN COMPARED FOOTBALL CLUBS TO POLITICAL PARTIES. COUNCIL HAD TAKEN DECISION, HE SAID, AFTER FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH CLUB LEADERS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT, ONE PROPOSAL FOR REGROUPING OF TEAMS CALLS FOR SETTING TEAMS UP ACCORDING TO NEIGHBORHOODS, WITH CLUBS TO BE CALLED LOME I, LOME II, ETC., AS IS REPORTEDLY
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DONE IN CONAKRY AND NIGER. OTHER PROPOSALS ARE TO SET UP ONE LOME TEAM FOR EACH THREE PARTY CELLS AND ONE FOR EACH CIRCONSCRIPTION.

4. COMMENT TO FOLLOW BY SEPTEL.
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